

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 NIC-01 MC-02 ACDA-05 FEA-01

OES-03 EB-07 INT-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05

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R 100630Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1014

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHERAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 0014

USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, XF, EG, SY, UR, US

SUBJ: PROPAGANDA CHARACTERIZATION OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: LENINGRAD PROPAGANDA LECTURER FEB 9
DESCRIBED GROMYKO'S VISIT TO ME AS EVIDENCE OF SUCCESSFUL
SOVIET DIPLOMACY IN AREA DESIGNED, INTER ALIA, TO
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ASCERTAIN SADAT'S POSITIONS AFTER PERIOD OF SOME "EGYPTIAN

VACILLATION." AT SAME TIME, US DIPLOMACY CHARACTERIZED AS SERVING JOINT US-ISRAELI AIMS IN EFFORT TO PREVENT A SOVIET "DIPLOMATIC VICTORY." END SUMMARY.

2. PROPAGANDIST STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF CURRENT SOVIET DIPLOMACY IN AREA WHERE MILITARY CONFLICT COULD OCCUR AT ANY MOMENT. GROMYKO'S VISIT TO EGYPT, BASICALLY DESIGNED AS STOCK-TAKING AFTER PERIOD OF EGYPTIAN VACILLATION, SAID TO BE SUCCESSFUL, ALTHOUGH THERE REMAIN SEVERAL DIFFICULT POINTS IN EGYPTIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. FORTHCOMING VISIT OF HIGH-LEVEL EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION CALLED IMPORTANT RESULT OF GROMYKO'S TALKS AND DELEGATION VISIT TO MOSCOW EXPECTED TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL ALL OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS RELATED TO ASSISTANCE. PROPAGANDIST SAID BREZHNEV, ALTHOUGH EARLIER ILL WITH FLU, WILL "GO SOON" TO MIDDLE EAST.

3. KISSINGER VISIT TO ME CHARACTERIZED AS HAVING SELF-DESCRIBED "INVESTIGATORY NATURE," BUT POSSIBILITY OF HIS PROPOSING NEW APPROACH TO PROBLEMS "CANNOT BE EXCLUDED." SECRETARY'S PLANS FOR MIDDLE EAST SITUATION DESCRIBED AS DESIGNED TO SERVE JOINT US-ISRAELI HOPE THAT COURSE OF REGULARIZATION WILL SERVE THEIR PURPOSES. THESE SAID TO BE: A) END PROBLEM OF MIDDLE EAST OIL SUPPLIES TO IMPROVE CURRENT STRAIN ON US ECONOMY; B) KEEP ISRAEL MILITARILY STRONG WITH MAMMOTH US AID; C) ASSIST EGYPT AT SAME TIME TO RECEIVE INDIRECT AID THROUGH BRITISH AND FRENCH AS MEANS OF COUNTERING SOVIET INFLUENCE; D) PREVENT STRENGTHENING OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN MIDDLE EAST THROUGH USE OF "REACTIONARY DIPLOMACY" OF SHAH OF IRAN, KING FAISAL OF SAUDI ARABIA, AND HUSSEIN OF JORDAN-- "ARAB ROYALISTS" WHO CAN BE ENLISTED IN THIS EFFORT; AND E) FROM ISRAELI STANDPOINT, HOLD BACK ON ANY SIGNIFICANT WITHDRAWALS FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

4. IN CONTEXT OF MEPC, PROPAGANDIST STRESSED THAT EVEN EGYPTIANS AGREED WITH IMPORTANCE OF GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE--LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH-- BUT ADDED PARANTHETICALLY THAT GROMYKO'S TALKS WITH SYRIANS "HAD BEEN EASIER".

NEUBERT

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